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The
Command  **Run**

Vol. 1 No. 10 ■ Miami ■ Oct. 27, 2000



Command Run

is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the *Command Run* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs Office. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Friday, a week before publication (the last Friday of each month). The public affairs staff reserves the right to edit all submissions to journalistic standards. All photos are official photos unless otherwise noted. Acceptance of input by the public affairs staff does not guarantee publication.

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Command celebrates Navy's 225th birthday

By Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Gabe Puello
Command Run Assistant
Editor

MIAMI -- The Navy celebrated its 225th birthday, Friday Oct 13 with a cake cutting ceremony and a video presentation portraying the saga of the United States Navy from the perspective of its sailors, at U.S. Southern Command's main conference room.

Capt. Randy Robb, commanding

officer, U.S. Navy Detachment, gave the keynote address at what would have been a joyous occasion, but in light of the USS Cole incident, became a somber occasion.

The Navy was born by a resolution passed by the Continental Congress, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 13, 1775.

At Southern

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Birthday

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Command's ceremony, the Secretary of the Navy, and Chief of Naval Operation's birthday messages were read to the commands sailors, followed by a com-

memorative birthday cake cutting by Seaman Apprentice Brendan Ryan, the junior sailor of the command and Capt. Robb, the most senior. The festivities were not solely exclusive to Southcom's sailors, who were joined by representatives from the other

branches of service to commemorate the Navy's birthday.

This year's Navy birthday celebration piqued local journalist's interests more than previous years, due to the disastrous bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen. Media attending

the birthday ceremony, looking to tie in Southcom's reaction with the events in the Middle East, interviewed several command spokesmen's resulting in local and national television and print exposure. **(Editor's note: See page 4 for a related story.)**



(Right) Navy Capt. Randy Robb, U.S. Navy Detachment commanding officer and J-3 Operations Directorate deputy director, gives the keynote address at the Navy birthday celebration. (Left) Robb, the most senior Navy officer, and Seaman Apprentice Brendan Ryan, the most junior sailor of the command, cut the Navy's 225th birthday cake.



Memorial for USS Cole survivors and dead garner national attention

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

Command Run Assistant Editor

MIAMI -- While 10 dead crewmates still lay trapped in buckled, flooded compartments below decks, and sailors of the destroyer Cole struggled to keep their stricken ship afloat, Southern Command mourned fallen sailors aboard USS Cole Oct. 16 at the U.S. Southern Command's main conference room.

Col. Emilio Chaviano, command chaplain, led a memorial ceremony where a "reading of the names" was

performed by Lt. Matthew Bowman and Petty Officer 2nd Class Cynthia Rosado for the dead, and a prayer was read for the wounded survivors of an apparent terrorist attack.

The collapse of an underwater bulkhead early that morning sent tons of water flooding back into parts of the Cole that had been pumped out in the frantic struggle that began when a small boat laden with explosives rammed the guided missile destroyer on Thursday morning. Seventeen sailors died in what American investigators describe as a terrorist attack. By nightfall, more than 16 hours after the bulkhead caved in, the task force commander assigned to head efforts to save the Cole and bring the ship home safely described the collapse as a "catastrophe," but said that the worse had been averted.

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Terrorists attacked the USS Cole (DDG 67) Oct. 12 in the industrial harbor in Aden, Yemen during a scheduled refueling.



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The family of critically injured USS Cole sailor, Johann Gokool was invited to attend the memorial ceremony at U.S. Southern Command, but was instead flown to Norfolk, Va., to anxiously await the arrival of her son.

Local television, radio, and print news reporters were on hand to cover Southcom's heartfelt message to their fallen comrades. National attention was brought upon the command in the form



Photos by Navy Lt. j.g. Frank Kostenko

Navy Lt. Matthew Bowman and Petty Officer 2nd Class Cynthia Rosado read the names of the Sailors who died in the apparent terrorist attack of the USS Cole.

of a CNN news story. E-mails were received from some members of the Com-

mand who disagreed with the level of media exposure given to the command or the

manner in which photographers went about their business photographing the

emotions of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen during such a solemn event. "The bottom line is, the media is our avenue to the American public and it is always important to remind the American public that we care about what happens to the young men and women they send to us to care for," said, Col. Ronald Williams, Southern Command director of public affairs. "It is also a way to have our citizens join in saying farewell to gallant young warriors," he added.



A second star

Gen. Peter Pace (Right), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, promotes Brig. Gen. Gary L. Speer, deputy commander in chief, to the rank of major general during a ceremony Oct. 3 at the Main Conference Room. Speer's wife Lynne assists the commander in chief with the promotion. (Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon)

Cohen strengthens ties with Argentina, Chile

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

MANAUS, Brazil, Oct. 18, 2000 — U.S. service members can expect more contact with the Argentine and Chilean military in the future because of agreements signed here Oct. 17.

Defense Secretary William S.



Photo by Linda D. Kozaryn

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen signs a new U.S.-Chilean agreement with Chilean Defense Minister Mario Fernandez Baeza.

Cohen strengthened U.S. ties with the two South American nations during the 25-nation Defense Ministerial of the Americas here. Prior to the ministerial's opening ceremony Oct. 17, Cohen met with his Argentine and Chilean counterparts.

Cohen and Argentine Defense Minister Ricardo Lopez Murphy signed an updated agreement concerning the exchange of research and development information. It allows the two nations to

share sensitive information on a wide range of subjects including arms programs, acquisition and terrorism, a senior U.S. defense official said.

Cohen also signed a new acquisition and cross-servicing agreement with Chilean Defense Minister

Mario Fernandez Baeza. It will facilitate the exchange of nonlethal equipment, increase cooperation in the field and reduce the paperwork involved, Cohen said. It will enhance both nations' ability to engage in peacekeeping mis-

sions more effectively, he added.

The new U.S.-Chile agreement allows the two militaries to exchange goods and services such as oil at sea or shipyard services, the senior U.S. official said. "It allows them to help resupply our Navy in distant ports," he said.

"We have these agreements with militaries all around the world," he explained. "This is just bringing Chile into the same category. It increases our abilities to work smoothly together."

(AFPS)

Cohen, regional defense ministers meet in Brazil

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

MANAUS, Brazil, Oct. 17, 2000 — Defense ministers from throughout the Western Hemisphere gathered here in the Amazon rain forest in mid-October for the fourth Defense Ministerial of the Americas.

"This is a great opportunity to discuss issues that affect the entire region," Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said Oct. 16 en route to South America.

Arriving in Manaus, Cohen joined counterparts from Canada, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The defense officials' agenda in-



"This is a great opportunity to discuss issues that affect the entire region."

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen

cluded discussions on environmental concerns, natural disasters, information sharing, strengthening mutual trust and confidence and other regional issues.

While narcotics trafficking would certainly be discussed, Cohen said, he did not expect it to be the focus of the meetings. The

United States supports regional counterdrug operations by providing military training for local law enforcers as well as helicopters and other equipment to aid the war on drugs.

Initiated by former U.S. Defense Secretary William J. Perry, the DMA, as the conference is known, has firmly taken hold, ac-

cording to senior DoD officials traveling with Cohen. The defense leaders first met in 1995 in Williamsburg, Va. A year later, they met in Bariloche, Argentina. Then in 1998, they met in Cartagena, Colombia. The DMA is now slated to be held every two years.

Perry's vision for the event was to unite the hemisphere's defense ministers to promote democracy, create open markets and maintain stability. Many who attended the Williamsburg event met their counterparts from

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other nations for the first time.

Since then, the DMA has continued to encourage regional cooperation, and, according to Cohen, there has been “a great transformation throughout the region.”

“There is a greater level of cooperation (and) a much greater level of transparency with countries undertaking the publication of white papers.

There is more in the way of coordina-

tion of some of the training missions they have together. We’ve seen resolution of border disputes between Ecuador and Peru and between Argentina and Chile.

Brazil, in particular, has developed better relations with its neighbors, he added. The fact Brazil is host of the DMA is significant because, Cohen noted, “Brazil now has for the first time a minister of defense. On past trips I had to visit with each of the heads of the military.”

While in

Manaus, Cohen’s schedule included bilateral meetings with Argentine Defense Minister Ricardo Lopez Murphy and Chilean Defense Minister Mario Fernando Baeza. He was also slated to update Brazilian

P r e s i d e n t Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Defense Minister Geraldo Magela de Cruz Quintao on the Middle East crisis.

Cohen had originally planned to spend three days at the ministerial, followed by visits to Brasilia, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argen-

tina; and Santiago, Chile. He cut the trip short due to the terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen. After delivering opening remarks at the DMA Oct. 17, the

secretary is scheduled to return home to attend an Oct. 18 memorial service in Norfolk, Va., for the sailors killed in the bombing.

(AFPS)

Cohen calls for cooperative effort in war against drugs

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American Forces Press Service

MANAUS, Brazil, Oct. 18, 2000 — Nations of the Western Hemisphere need to band together in a cooperative effort to help combat drug trafficking, Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said here Oct. 17.

Speaking to about 25 national defense ministers at the fourth Defense

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Ministerial of the Americas, Cohen called drug trafficking a cancer that will spread if left untreated. He said the drug trade, insurgency and paramilitary forces threaten Colombia, one of South America's oldest democracies.

"Working together, we hope to help Colombia in their time of need and prevent the conflict from shifting Colombia's problems to its neighbors," he said in his prepared text.

Organized crime will flourish and spread whenever huge profits can be made with little risk of apprehension, prosecution,

"Working together, we hope to help Colombia in their time of need and prevent the conflict from shifting Colombia's problems to its neighbors."

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen

conviction or incarceration, he said.

He pointed out that the United States spends 82 percent of its national drug control budget to reduce the U.S. demand for drugs. It also helps Colombia fight drug traffickers by providing military training, transportation and equipment, he said.

Congress has imposed

limits on the number of U.S. military and civilian personnel involved in the region, however, Cohen noted. "We do not, under any circumstances, intend to become involved militarily in Colombia," the secretary stressed.

"Each country throughout the Americas must decide for itself what role, if any, it will play," he said.

"Some may choose to provide information support. Some may choose (to provide) financial support. Others may decide it's not in their interest to take any action."

Drug trafficking was but one of the common challenges facing the Western Hemisphere that Cohen mentioned. In the wake of the Oct. 12 terrorist bombing of the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen, Cohen also urged the defense ministers to defend against terrorism, particularly in cyberspace.

"I just want you to think about the prospect of any dedicated professional

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— not to mention teen-age hacker — who could conceivably shut down your air traffic management control system ...,” he said. “Or someone who could shut down your power distribution system or close down your financial centers with the click of a button. Information assurance is something we all need to talk about.”

Since the last Western Hemi-

“We want to continue to build upon relationships that have been established, to reduce the tensions and look for ways we can tear down walls of mistrust and suspicion and animosity.”

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen

sphere defense ministerial in 1998, Cohen said, defense officials have made “astonishing progress” toward furthering cooperation. The United States and other countries have joined

forces to provide relief from Hurricane Mitch and other natural disasters. Local officials have resolved long-standing border disputes between Ecuador and Peru as well as be-

tween Argentina and Chile.

“We want to continue to build upon relationships that have been established, to reduce the tensions and look for ways we can tear down walls of mistrust and suspicion and animosity,” Cohen said. He called on the ministers to find ways to build a common approach to deal with common threats.

The 34 democracies in the Western Hemisphere share a common vision of promoting peace, economic and social jus-

tice and international cooperation, Cohen said. Their goals, he noted, are to advance regional security operation, increase civilian defense expertise, encourage democratic civil-military relations and reinforce the trend toward civilian leadership in security affairs.

“I urge each country to accelerate its commitment to achieving these goals and applaud the progress already achieved,” Cohen said in his text.

(AFPS)

School superintendent headlines Hispanic celebration

**By Navy Petty Officer
1st Class Gabe Puello**
Command Run Assistant
Editor

MIAMI -- The diversity, accomplishments and culture of today's Hispanics in the military were recognized during U.S. Southern Command's National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration here Oct. 10 in the Main Conference Room. Roger Cuevas, superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the fourth-largest school district in the nation,



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello
Roger Cuevas, superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public School System, speaks at the command's Hispanic Heritage Celebration Oct. 10 at the Main Conference Room.

served as guest speaker of this year's celebration. The school superintendent appeared perfectly suited for this year's theme, "Children, our Hope and Future."

Cuevas, a native

of Caibarien, Cuba, immigrated to the U.S. with his family in the 1950s and settled in Miami where he rose through the ranks of the Miami-Dade Public School system, eventually becoming its superintendent. Cuevas illustrated how his newly acquired post as co-chairman of the National Urban Systemic Initiative in math and science relates to the current national debates undertaken by the presidential candidates. He mentioned

how the candidates, who take on the recession and shortcomings of the national education system, "need look no further than today's United States Armed Forces, the greatest training force I have ever come across."

The superintendent also reminded the attendees about the recent softening of immigration laws to allow technologically-trained immigrants easier access to U.S. jobs. These

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laws were implemented due to the lack of U.S. trained experts. "You (U.S. Armed Forces) do have the key to the American educational training system, the key to technology, the key to train the work force," added Cuevas.

President Clinton issued a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month. "Even as Hispanic Americans grow in



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello
The audience enjoys a dance demonstration by the Brazilian Capoeira Da Abolicao, a child dance troop in Miami.

numbers and influence in our country, they have not forgotten their roots; they have not forgotten the pain of discrimination, of being ignored or left behind. Instead, millions of courageous and compassionate Hispanic men and women across our country are working to create a just and equal society, uniting around a

firm commitment to build one America in this new century," said Clinton.

The ceremony conducted here in SOUTHCOM's main conference room recognized the achieve-

ments of Hispanic adults and children in the local community and was followed by a dance demonstration by the Brazilian Capoeira Da Abolicao, a child dance troop.



U.S. Southern Command personnel enjoy Hispanic culinary delights following the command's Hispanic celebration Oct. 10 at the headquarters in Miami.



Photo by Navy Ensign Joe Rystrom
A Salvadoran soldier combats the dengue outbreak by fumigating for dengue-carrying mosquitoes in the capital city of San Salvador.

Medical team responds to dengue epidemic outbreak

By Navy Ensign Joe Rystrom and Lt. j.g. Frank Kostenko
U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador – Two military preventive medicine physicians, two entomology experts and one preventive medicine technician recently spent several weeks here responding to the nation's current dengue fever epidemic, which has claimed 32 lives and infected an estimated 7,500 others this year.

Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Bruno P. Petrucelli, from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., led the team sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command's Command Surgeon Office that

worked with the Salvadoran Public Health Ministry Sept. 26 through Oct. 6.

Petrucelli said the team provided El Salvador officials with advice on mosquito control techniques because an infected mosquito spreads dengue. He said, "This particular dengue type is more likely than others to cause hemorrhagic fever, which makes a person who has been afflicted with the disease to have serious bleeding and, at times, death." He noted that children are more likely to progress to dengue hemorrhagic fever, and to die.

The dengue outbreak situation

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has been complicated because of an increase of precipitation in this year's rainy season in El Salvador, causing an increase in mosquitoes in populated areas.

The Salvadoran Public Health Ministry requested emergency assistance from the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, who then contacted the U.S. Southern Command Headquarters in Miami. The medical assistance team was then assembled and



Photos by Navy Ensign Joe Rystrom

A Salvadoran soldier fumigates vegetation in San Salvador.

sent to El Salvador. Army Capt. (Dr.) Institute of Research,
Entomologist Dr. James Mancuso from and Entomologist
Michael Perich and Walter Reed Army Thomas Burroughs

and Sgt. David Guerra from Aberdeen along with Petrucelli comprised the team. They advised El Salvador Department of Health officials on fumigation techniques, and collected mosquito larva samples for further study.

Guerra, who also acted as the translator for the team, helped with setting traps to collect mosquito eggs and with collecting mosquito larva. He said the team helped the Sal-

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vadoran Public Health Ministry with their resistance-testing program. The samples were packaged and sent to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, where they will be tested to see if they are building any resistance against insecticides.

“We were only able to put out 16 traps in homes in San Salvador. Normally we put out 100 or more during the collection process,” Guerra noted. “We got a few eggs so it was still a success.”

The end result, Guerra added, is El Salvador benefited from assistance from



Dengue-carrying mosquitoes lay their eggs in man-made water storage areas, such as this water storage barrel in San Salvador. (Photo by Navy Ensign Joe Rystrom)

the U.S. and other nations. “Our team was able to help El Salvador with the fumigation in and around the capital, and instill on health officials the importance of maintaining sur-

veillance of mosquitoes. Everything was positive and I personally felt good knowing I could use my expertise as a translator and medical technician to help them fight the dengue

outbreak,” he said.

(Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs, contributed to this story.)

Sailors arrive in South Florida for Fleet Week 2000



(Above) The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) arrives in Port Everglades, Fla., Oct. 2 to participate in Fleet Week 2000.

(Right) The USS Miami (SSN 755) arrives in Port Everglades, Fla., Oct. 2. The attack submarine gets its name from the city of Miami. (Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)



Air Force Staff Sgt. Bridget R. Plifka receives an award during the American Airlines 2000 Sailor of the Year ceremony Oct. 3 onboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. Left to right is Mara Giuliani, mayor of Hollywood, Fla.; Rear Adm. Michael D. Malone; Plifka, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jim Herdt, who also gave the keynote address at the ceremony. The event was sponsored by the City of Hollywood and the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Command joins Fleet Week 2000 partners, builds 'Habitat for Humanity' homes

By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Command Run Editor

DANIA, Fla. – Command volunteers recently wielded hammers, handsaws and determination to construct trusses and roofs on Habitat for Humanity homes

earmarked to shelter low-income families in Broward County.

As part of Broward Navy Days, the command's volunteers joined forces with Fleet Week 2000 participants from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and local community volun-



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

U.S. Southern Command volunteers carry trusses Sept. 30 at a Habitat for Humanity home located off Raleigh Street in Dania, Fla.

teers to build seven homes at construction sites located along Raleigh Street. Altogether, more than 60 command

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Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Air Force Senior Airman Jami McCray, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, helps steady a new truss being installed onto a home Sept. 30.

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members labored on the project Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.

Nancy Daly, chairman of the board for Habitat for Humanity of Broward Inc., said volunteers like those from SOUTHCOM enabled the organization to build more homes, more quickly.

"We normally take four or five months to build a home, and we'll have these done probably in two months, from the start until the time the homeowners move in.

We're calling these building projects 'seven and seven'... seven homes in seven days. Now they won't be completed and ready to move in at the end of seven days," she explained. "But they will be dried in and the doors and windows will be in. We will finish the interior in the near future."

The command's participants were involved to assist people in need, and they worked side by side with the families that will be living in the homes. It's an experience most volunteers find very

gratifying, Daly said, and they are able to take the spirit of humanity home with them.

Daly explained that Habitat for Humanity homeowners are selected for the program based on their individual need and ability to repay a largely reduced and interest-free mortgage. In addition, homeowners must save \$1,200 to defray closing costs and must put in 400 hours of what is called "sweat equity," which means partici-

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Alex Lopez (Below), Army Signal Activity, prepares a Habitat for Humanity site Sept. 30 for installation of trusses. More than 60 command volunteers labored on the project Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 at homes on Raleigh Street in Dania, Fla.

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pate in building their home and other Habitat homes. They also attend numerous classes on weekends where they learn what it legally means to own a home and property, how to budget money carefully, dealing with drugs in the neighborhood and community, and other subjects first-time homeowners need to learn about.

Air Force Senior Airman Jami McCray, a staff sergeant selectee from the J-2 Intelligence Directorate, volunteered because she thought it was a worthwhile project, good for the community. She also has



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Navy Capt. Randy Robb, J-3 Operations Directorate deputy director, moves a truss into place while volunteering with Habitat for Humanity Sept. 30.

previous experience working with plumbing, roofing, siding and window installations.

McCray spent a lot of time at the Habitat for Hu-

manity job site on a roof installing trusses. But what she enjoyed most, she

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said, was meeting and working alongside each of the homeowners. "It's a feel-good thing," she said. "It makes you proud to be in the military and SOUTHCOM."

Another SOUTHCOM volunteer, Navy Chief Petty Officer Dennis Mull, from the J-3 Operations Directorate, is a civil engineering structural draftsman. He volunteered because he said he wanted to get involved with the



Photo/Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
U.S. Southern Command volunteers work together to install trusses at a Habitat for Humanity job site in Dania, Fla., Oct. 30.

construction. But, he said, it's also about helping others in the

community.

Liseanne Knight, the homeowner of the house McCray and Mull were working on, emphasized how grateful she was that the SOUTHCOM volunteers took the time to help build her house.

"I was on a corner this morning directing people to park their cars. I was looking at the rain pouring, and these people were still coming," she said. "Thank God! Their hearts are out here for us... the love that they have for Habitat is tremendous. I'm overwhelmed – you

just don't know. I'm looking forward to moving into my house. I don't know everybody volunteering here today, but I love them to death," Knight added.

Mary Lou Bowman, the Habitat for Humanity Construction Program manager, said a project like this takes an incredible amount of planning so that everybody has good constructive work to do and has a good time doing it.

"I think we were successful. We were supposed to have 150 to 160 total volunteers out here today

(Sept. 30). Being that it was pouring rain this morning when we were supposed to start... we still had well over 100 people. That's phenomenal," she said.

Bowman added that Navy Days and Collegiate Challenge are Habitat for Humanity's biggest construction projects in Broward County each year, and SOUTHCOM volunteers are an important piece of the puzzle that makes it possible to build the desired number of homes during Navy Days.

Public Affairs Exchange Seminar unites countries

By Air Force 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
JTF Bravo Public Affairs

SATO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras -- They came from all over Central America and the Caribbean to Soto Cano for the first-ever multilateral public affairs exchange seminar Sept. 10 through 14. Representing eight countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras and the United States, more than 35 top military and civilian leaders came to Soto Cano to share experiences and knowledge between the many countries and to standardize differ-



Photo by Air Force 1st Lt. Kim Garbett

Members representing eight Caribbean and Central American countries discuss Public Affairs crisis management strategies at the Sato Cano Air Base theater.

ent approaches to public affairs. The countries selected were all Spanish-

speaking; the seminar was conducted entirely in Spanish.

According to Raul Duany, chief of media relations at Southern Command Public Affairs, the overall emphasis of the seminar was understanding public affairs as a whole: the transparency of information; the role of public affairs as a spokesperson and advisor to the commander, PA doctrine in general; the ethical aspects of PA; the importance of a proactive approach to news/information dissemination; crisis management; and having effective control of strategy and tactics in the release of information.

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Duany, who has a BA in advertising, has been in PA for more than 12 years. He has worked for the military in public affairs for many of those 12 years, some as a military member, some as a civilian. Duany was the primary speaker during the seminar.

"In three days, we covered a wide spectrum of the PA mission, serving as an ethical practitioner, a credible and prepared advisor for



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Participants at the Public Affairs Exchange Conference discuss how to standardize different Public Affairs approaches.

the mission ... ranging from maintaining the force and keeping families properly informed to dealing with the media and establishing positive relations with the community," Duany

said.

S O U T H C O M spearheaded the concept for this pilot program, in conjunction with the CINC's vision. Joint Task Force-Bravo was selected as a test site by

SOUTHCOM for a potential future Public Affairs Exchange Center, where multi-lateral exchanges like this could continue to occur on a regular basis. Other possibilities for a Center include Puerto Rico, and a couple of other sites to be determined will be explored in the Southern Cone and Andean Region of South America.

One of the most important things that key players hoped to cultivate was that relations were built between the countries. "In the event of potential

contingencies or future operations, we'd be better able to have a parallel understanding with our counterparts with what our roles (as PA) are and have a common ground for effective execution, especially when our nations are so closely bound together," Duany said. The United States has close ties with many countries in Latin America, he continued, with the fifth largest population of Spanish speakers present within it's

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borders. Within a decade, Duany suggested, the United States is expected to have the third largest Spanish-speaking population.

The bottom-line, said Duany, is that this exchange seminar was a great opportunity to get to have a common ground and to understand that the media is not an enemy but a key medium of fostering support from our community of nations. In such an increasingly interconnected global society – a transnational society with transnational threats – this communication foun-

dation is vital for smooth working relations between countries, alluded Duany.

For many of the participants, the seminar turned out to be an incredible learning experience. “Since I’m new to the job, having so many others (from a variety of countries) share their experiences in and knowledge about public affairs was extremely beneficial to me,” said COL Nelson Florentino, director of the Dominican Republic’s Armed Forces public affairs. “At the seminar, I have learned to address the media more effectively and learned different ways to handle difficult high-visibility situations. As soon as I return to my country, I will put into execution all I



Photo/1st Lt. Kim Garbett

The public affairs seminar, which included 35 top military and civilian leaders from eight countries, was conducted entirely in Spanish Sept. 10 through 14.

have learned here in these three days... Relations between our military and our public can be better; it’s my responsibility to make sure this happens.”

According to Mayor Eduardo Figueroa Ambulo from El Salvador, “This ex-

change seminar was a very valuable element, especially with multiple countries present. It gave us the opportunity to share thoughts, experiences and friendships. We can also learn to standardize our communications among the countries through these lessons learned. For me, crisis management and planning of public affairs strategy and tactics were the most critical things I will take away with me from this seminar. If other opportunities arise for another seminar of this nature, I would definitely go.”

SOUTHCOM is planning the next test center and exchange seminar to be held in Puerto Rico in early to mid-December.



CFC kicks off

Brig. Gen. Gary L. Speer (now major general), U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief, speaks to the command's Combined Federal Campaign key workers Sept. 29 at the headquarters about their roles and responsibilities. The general challenged each keyworker to personally contact every person in their section, educate them about the campaign, and give everyone an opportunity to contribute. The CFC, which is the only sanctioned charity fundraising event in the federal government, officially kicked off here Oct. 2. The command's goal for 2000 is \$50,000. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

Relief team deploys to Belize in wake of Hurricane Keith's whirlwind of trouble

By Air Force Master Sgt. Pat McKenna
JTF Bravo Public Affairs

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Palmerola, Honduras— While Hurricane Keith was taking aim on the tiny country of Belize, bringing with it an expected whirlwind of trouble, a team of soldiers, airmen and Marines from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, were getting spun



Members of a relief team from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras assess the damage Hurricane Keith left in its wake as it passed over the tiny county of Belize. Hurricane Keith dumped more than 30 inches of torrential rain in Belize while sustained winds of 135 mph whalloped buildings and vegetation Oct. 1 and 2.

up too. Leaders at Joint Task Force-Bravo knew that if Hurricane Keith pummeled Belize or any other country in the region, the task force would get the call from U.S. Southern Command to respond.

“Nobody else could offer the same capabilities as rapidly as Joint Task Force-Bravo could,” said COL Michael Wood, JTF-Bravo commander. “Our rapid response showed our commitment to the region and the people of Belize. We’re key Central American partners, performing the CINC’s regional engagement strategy.”

On Oct. 1 and 2, Category IV Hurricane Keith stalled over Belize, dumping more than 30 inches of torrential rain in some areas and walloping its coastline and tourist islands with sustained winds of 135 mph. The islands of

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Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye received the brunt of the storm. Winds and a six-foot high storm surge trashed the town of San Pedro on Ambergris Caye, tearing off roofs, splintering piers, grounding boats, and flooding homes on the town's western, lagoon side.

Officials estimate it will cost millions of dollars to restore tourist-dependent Belize's coral-fringed cays and gin-clear waters to their



The team from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras also assessed the condition of the runway at Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport in Belize City and ferried officials from the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster to outlying areas, where they could evaluate the damage.

natural beauty.

After Keith meandered its way

slowly across the Yucatan Peninsula into the Gulf of

Mexico, a 38-member team composed of professionals from

Joint Task Force-Bravo and the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment launched from Soto Cano on Oct. 4 in three UH-60 Black Hawks and one CH-47 Chinook left for Belize City.

U.S. Southern Command sent in the Soto Cano team to assess the condition of the runway at Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport in Belize City and to ferry officials from the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster to outlying areas, where

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they could evaluate the damage.

Besides the assessments, the team made emergency food drops and delivered medical supplies, water, toiletries and other much-needed items in towns like Bermuda Landing, Flowers Bank and Doublehead Cabbage, to name a few.

A two-member team from the task force's civil engineering shop, composed of 1LT Jonathan Hadley and Tech. Sgt. Maria Kraft, conducted the runway assessment and then visited Dangriga and several other Belizean



Hurricane Keith meandered its way slowly across the Yucatan Peninsula leaving tremendous destruction in its path.

towns, where U.S. military civil engineers had built New Horizons projects. All

of the projects escaped serious damage.

According to Maj. Carl Agar, operation's chief of the Humanitarian Assessment Support Team, the hardest part of the mission was coordinating with other agencies.

"There was some frustration in the early hours of the operation, because everybody was cocked and ready to go, but you can't launch until you get the nod," Agar said. "We had to work closely with several agencies, such as the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, the Belize MILGROUP, the airport's airfield manager, and the Belizean Defense Force. It took some time in the beginning, but what we

learned and the relationships we built will help us in the future.

"Then, once we got started, everybody really pulled together," Agar said. "Everybody knew what they needed to do, and we didn't have anybody standing around with nothing to do."

Both Agar and Wood commented on how the deployment package of personnel contained the perfect mix of skills. In shaping the Hurricane Keith team, operations planners used a blueprint of the package dispatched on Operation Smokey — the team sent to fight fires in

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Guatemala earlier this year.

“If you have the expertise, you’re going to go,” Wood said. “It doesn’t make a difference if you’re a man or a woman, or a soldier, airmen or Marine. We want to take the best with us on these operations.”

Two of the 1-228th’s UH-60s flew 22.4 hours in support of the mission while the Chinook flew 14.8 hours. In between transporting emergency supplies and OFDA assessment



Besides the assessments, the team made emergency food drops and delivered medical supplies, water, toiletries and other much-needed items to various towns throughout Belize.

team members, the aviation battalion also moved members of Britain’s Coldstream Guards, the famous regiment that defends Buckingham Palace. The Guards had been bivouacked on Caye Caulker, engaged in jungle war-

fare training, when asked to lend a hand with clean-up efforts on Ambergris Caye, which was hardest hit by the storm.

Just weeks before the hurricane slammed into Belize, Joint Task Force-Bravo had conducted a hurricane exercise, planning on how they’d respond to a devastating storm such as Hurricane Mitch.

“It was very fortuitous we had the exercise just weeks before Hurricane Keith hit,” Wood said. “We knew it was hurricane season, so we were thinking

about storms. Some of the same tools and thought processes that we used during our hurricane exercise were transferred to Belize.”

The colonel said Belize skirted serious damage, and Hurricane Keith paled in comparison to Mitch. Hurricane Mitch razed Honduras, killing thousands, displacing even more families, and inflicting millions of dollars worth of damage.

“The country still hasn’t fully recov-

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ered,” Wood said. “Hurricane Keith didn’t paralyze Belize like Mitch did to Honduras. The lights were back on in Belize City in a matter of days, and there was a minimal loss of life. The tourist trade in Belize has been set back, but six months from now, I expect things will be back to normal there.”

According to Agar, the greatest threat to Belize is rising water, flooding and the threat of diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

The task force and the 228th received praise from U.S. Ambassador to Belize Hon. Carolyn Curiel, U.S.



SOUTHCOM commander Marine Gen. Peter Pace, and the people of Belize for quickly confirming the airfield could support aircraft so that humanitarian orga-

nizations could shuttle in much-needed supplies.

“The whole team performed exceptionally well,” Wood said.

“The important thing

The citizens of Belize are recovering from Hurricane Keith, which devastated the country Oct. 1 and 2. Belize is still being threatened by rising water, flooding and the threat of diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

was that we accomplished the mission, helping to relieve suffering and bringing the country quickly back to its feet,” the colonel said.

News briefs

Miami area tour

The Family Support Center is sponsoring its monthly Miami area tour 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Nov. 24. The tour is free to military personnel and their families. The tour begins and ends at the **Codina Building, Suite 110, at 8300 NW 33 Street**. For more information or to sign up for the tour, call **(305) 437-2665**.

Newcomers brief

The Family Support Center is sponsoring a newcomers briefing 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Base Operations Education Center located at the

Codina Building, Suite 110, 8300 NW 33 Street. The briefing is the first Tuesday of every month.

The briefing includes presentations from the TRICARE representative; SOUTHCOM Health Clinic; Housing Office; Traffic Management Office; Education Office; Legal Office; Quality of Life Office; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; DoD Police; and chaplain. For more information or to reserve your seat at the briefing, call **(305) 437-2667 or 2665**, or toll free at **(888) 547-4025**.

Smooth move

The Family Support

Center is sponsoring a Smooth Move briefing Nov. 21 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the **U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Conference Room 1401**. Call **(305) 437-2639** for more information or to sign up.

Legal Assistance

Call Army Staff Sgt. Brigitte Romain at **(305) 437-1303** or Suzanne Estes at **(305) 437-1304** to schedule legal assistance appointments.

Employment

The Family Support Center's Employment Readiness Program pro-

vides four-day Transition Assistance Program workshops; Marketing Yourself for a Second Career workshops; pre-separation briefings (including completion of DD Form 2648); resume writing workshops; interviewing skills workshops; job fairs; job and career transition coaching; job search strategies and referrals; individual coaching and support; access to FSC computers for Internet job search and resume development; access to community employers' data resource reference manuals;

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and notary public services. For more information or to sign up call Marva Creary at **(305) 437-2671 or 2665** or E-mail **crearym@hq.southcom.mil**.

Sponsors

The Family Support Center is providing sponsor training 8:30 to 10 a.m. Nov. 27 at the **U.S. Southern Command Headquarters Conference Room 1401**. Call **(305) 437-2665** to sign up or for more

information.

Resumes

There is a Resume Writing Workshop 3 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 8 at the **Codina Building, 8300 NW 33 Street, Suite 110**. Call the Family Support Center at **(305) 437-2665** to sign up or for more information.

Idaho Guard

The Idaho Air National Guard, in Boise Idaho, has part-time openings for 1COX1, 1C4X1, 2A1X1, 2A7X1, 2A6X1, 2FOX1, 2W1X1, 2T2X1, and

more are available in many different career fields not listed. Call the Idaho Air National Guard toll free at **1-800-621-3909** or DSN **422-5383 or 5597**.

Picnic time

The U.S. Southern Command Picnic is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 18 at Parrot Jungle and Gardens located at 110 S.W. 57th Avenue. For tickets contact the directorate MWR representative.

Flood damage

Anyone affected by the recent flood can register with the

Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist with covering any uninsured losses such as auto and home repairs. Call FEMA toll free at **(800) 462-9029**.

How do I get

Emergency Financial Assistance

At the U.S. Southern Command all service members and dependents can access emergency financial assistance from the Army Emergency Relief officer at the Family Support Center. First see your unit commander, then see the AER officer located at the Codina Building. If an emergency arises on a weekend or holiday, call the AER emergency pager at **(305) 979-3024** or go to any local American Red Cross chapter.

AER helps with emergency needs like food, rent or utilities; emergency transportation and vehicle repair; funeral expenses; medical and dental expenses; and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen.

Kindness quenches 'fiery' thirst of SOUTHCOM runners

By Lisa D. Luse'

Special to the Command Run

Drip, drip, drippity, drop. That is the sound of sweat falling from drenched hair, tired muscles and the agony of 'de feet' after completing Friday's staff run.

After running several miles in formation, tired runners look forward to quenching their fiery thirst with refreshing sports drinks served by the staff of the Family Support Center.

Every Friday for the past three years, Julia Sealey and Jamileth Powell, both of the Family



Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

Julia Sealey (Right) and Jamileth Powell, Family Support Center, mix up a sports drink to serve the command's runners after their weekly staff run.

Support Center, and other volunteers, have been preparing a variety of tasty sports drinks for all of USSOUTHCOM runners.

An early start allows these ladies to gather the needed ice, cups, and coolers to serve everyone. "They go and get the ice around seven in the morning, set up and are always ready to serve the runners at the end of their gruelling run. They are determined never to let anyone down," said Haydee Gelpi, chief of the Family Support Center.

Runners of all services have benefited from the generosity of the Family Support staff who care so much about the welfare of the military

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members who run each week. And the military members are very appreciative.

“They come in real early to set up and prepare the drinks. That motivates us,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Jorge F. Vargas, of J-5.

“They are dedicated because the same volunteers are always out there with their smiles. They have a good attitude about providing this service to us.”

In addition, Vargas said, there is



always plenty of water and juice, and they never run out.

In fact, runners can choose from several

different flavors, he said.

Occasionally sponsors from the local community

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ana Mojica, J-2 Intelligence Directorate, enjoys a cold drink following a recent staff run. U.S. Southern Command personnel can look forward to quenching their thirst each week after running several miles together in formation thanks to volunteers from the Family Support Center who provide refreshments. (Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon)

provide monetary support and additional volunteers to provide drinks and snacks.

“I thought the drinks came from money collected within the command. By getting a sponsor from an outside source it lets them know that we are here to stay. We are out there protecting them and they know it,” said Vargas.

Following a recent run, Brig. Gen. Keith Huber, J-3 Operations Directorate director, commented how pleasant it is to end the run and receive these refreshments from such friendly hosts and hostesses serving the runners.

'Today our navy remains the most powerful navy in the world'

By Adm. Vern Clark
Chief of Naval Operations

Since the creation of the United States Navy in 1775, Americans have heeded the call to service - to the nation, to the Navy, service to our shipmates. We are each a part of this great heritage and must never take it for granted. Every year on the occasion of the Navy's birthday, October 13, we take the opportunity to reflect on our past and our future.

Today our navy remains the most powerful navy in the world. We provide access for Ameri-



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) pulls into Port Everglades, Fla., Oct. 2 to participate in Broward Navy Days Fleet Week 2000. The Navy celebrated its 225th birthday Oct. 13.

can sovereignty in the four-corners of the World. We defend our nation and

protect her interests. We influence Events ashore and we ensure open ac-

cess to the high seas for international trade.

We are who we are partly because of those who have sailed before us. Ours is a heritage of influencing world events; of operational success, victories in battle, and constant readiness to answer the call of our nation. From old Ironsides to the battle of Midway to Desert Storm, and countless deployments and battles in between, our service has changed the course of history.

This heritage is a direct result of our will-

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ingness to serve, and it is this service that makes us different. When we take the oath of service, we choose a life of consequence and dedicate ourselves to carry out the orders necessary to defend the interests of the United States. Our country expects, and appreciates, this service. The ultimate compliment is that, as Americans, we will not entertain the idea of anything less than total mission



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex C. Witte

A U.S. Navy F-18 Hornet launches from the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk (CVN 63) while the ship operates in the Western Pacific Ocean Oct. 6.

success. That way of thinking is ingrained in us - service, total success, not second best,

ever.

As we celebrate 225 years of naval history and look to the future, we will

be a navy that holds a life of service as the core of our existence. Recognizing and living the ideals

of naval service is our continuing challenge. Just as those who have gone before us, we now uphold the promises made to our nation, our navy and our shipmates: to support and defend the constitution of the United States; to serve honorably; and to provide our people the opportunity to grow and prosper. This is who we are, and this is who we must be.

I salute you for your service, and wish you a happy navy birthday shipmates!

Adm. Vern Clark

Seaman Apprentice Lori Seroka



Service:
U.S. Navy
Organization:
J-2 Intelligence Directorate
Duty title:
Intelligence analyst
Time in service: 16 months
Hometown:
Killeen, Texas
Hobbies: Reading, playing pool and hanging out with friends

Favorite duty station: This is my only one

Career Highlights: Being interviewed by local media about the USS Cole bombing and how I felt about being a female sailor... and appearing on the news

Spc. Gregory B. Rivers II



Service:
U.S. Army
Organization:
Army Signal Activity
Duty title:
Mail clerk
Time in service:
3 and one half years
Hometown:
Gautier, Miss.
Hobbies: Haninging out, chilling, drinking, play station, aol.com

Favorite duty station: Suwon, South Korea

Career Highlights: Being assigned to U.S. Southern Command and living in Miami

J-3 Arrivals

Congratulations to the following personnel who recently joined the U.S. Southern Command and J-3 Operations Directorate:

- **Navy Cmdr. Scott Gorden**
- **Army Maj. George Miranda**
- **Air Force Reserve Maj. Alberto Rivera**
- **Air Force Maj. Gerardo de la Cruz**
- **Air Force Maj. Curtis Tookes**
- **Marine Capt. Walter Parker**
- **Air Force Capt. Deeann Emery**
- **Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James H. Trosper**
- **Ina Lindquist**
- **Samuel Pinto-Castillo**
- **Army Maj. Mario Arzeno**
- **Army Cpl. Alexander Saldana-Cotto**

J-3 Departures

Farewell to the following person-

nel who recently departed the U.S. Southern Command and J-3 Operations Directorate:

- **Marine Maj. Shawn Engel**
- **Army Maj. Jose Torrens**
- **Army Sgt. Sonya Drake**
- **Marine Staff Sgt. Warren Neel**
- **Maria Arjona**
- **Tammi Barreras**

Graduate award

Congratulations to **Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Danielle Pease**, J-3, who recently received the Air Force Senior NCO Academy's Distinguished Graduate Award.

J-3 promotions

Congratulations to the following military personnel from the J-3 Operations Directorate who were recently promoted to the ranks indicated:

- **Army Reserve Lt. Col. Ricky Spann**

- **Army Maj. Robert Schmidt**
- **Army Maj. Mario Arzeno**

J-3 promotion selection

Congratulations to the following Air Force lieutenant colonel in the J-3 Operations Directorate who was recently selected for promotion to the rank of colonel:

- **Dale L. DeKinder**

BABY CRIB

Congratulations to the parents of the newest additions to the U.S. Southern Command family. The following babies were born recently:

Sept. 26: Daniel Patrick Schmidt, son of Army Maj. Robert Schmidt, CMD, and wife Tracy. The baby weighed 11 pounds, 12 ounces.



Assault training

Marines from the USS Nassau Amphibious Assault Group train at Camp Garcia Landing Strip on Vieques Island, Puerto Rico Oct. 17. The Marines came ashore in beach landing craft and to the landing strip in helicopters during a "Supporting Arms Coordination Exercise." (Photo by Navy Ensign Joe Rystrom)